

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 824

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Captain Marcus R.
Alford, Sr., Tennessee Army National Guard.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Captain Marcus R. Alford, Sr., a courageous member of the Tennessee Army National Guard who gave his life in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, following in the patriotic tradition for which Knoxville, Knox County, and the Volunteer State are renowned, Captain Marcus Alford, Sr., was a brave and honorable member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, Troop C of the 1-230th Air Cavalry Squadron, based in Louisville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Captain Alford, who was twenty-eight years of age, lost his life in a "hard crash" while flying his OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter near Qayyarah Airfield West (Q-West) about thirty miles south of Mosul in Northern Iraq on February 21, 2010; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Class of 2000 at South-Doyle High School, Captain Marcus R. Alford Sr., was a four-year member of the JROTC program at South-Doyle, where he was a favorite of his fellow students and teachers alike, who enjoyed the bright, fun-loving young man voted "Wittiest" by his senior classmates; and

WHEREAS, a 2004 graduate of Carson-Newman College, Captain Alford was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in December 2004 from Carson-Newman College Reserve Officer Training Corps in Jefferson City, Tennessee, having joined the Tennessee Army National Guard in April 2000 as an ROTC cadet; and

WHEREAS, in January 2005, he was assigned as Liaison Officer, Detachment 2, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-230th Air Cavalry Squadron (ACS). In August 2008, he was assigned as Platoon Leader, Troop B, 1-230th ACS, and Operations Officer for the 107th Regiment February-March 2009; and

WHEREAS, Captain Alford, along with his fellow soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard, was mobilized in March 2009 and deployed to Iraq in July; and

WHEREAS, a man of great courage and gallantry, Captain Alford lost his life while serving his country and the cause in which he believed, and for that sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his distinguished military service, Captain Alford was awarded the Air Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal-3rd Award, and the Tennessee War Service Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, a devoted father and son, Captain Marcus Alford, Sr., is survived by his two beloved children, Amya Faith and Marcus, Jr., his mother, Karen Y. Ray, and his father, Michael Alford, as well as a host of dear friends and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Captain Marcus Alford, Sr., Tennessee Army National Guard, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Captain Marcus R. Alford, Sr., a man of impeccable character and limitless courage who stalwartly committed himself to the defense of his nation as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, and reflect fondly upon his bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Captain Alford.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.